

Residential Outdoor Cooking Fire & Fire Pit

Fire pits are known to be a great source of warmth and ambience. But, with the popularity increasing, fire safety has become even more important. There are many things you should consider while setting up and using a fire pit and open cooking outdoors.

These regulations are put in place for several reasons which include to control fires from becoming out of control due to dry weather conditions or improper handling, and to avoid the dispatching of fire apparatus and equipment when needed for emergencies. Regulations pertain to chimineas, fire pits, and outdoor fireplaces.



Prior to all cooking fires and fire pits, call the Holden Fire Department at [508-210-5650 extension 7](tel:508-210-5650). Leave your name, address, phone number, date of cooking fire, and approximate times. This is a recoding only; you will receive a call back if there is an issue.

Always use common sense with fires and follow the regulations below.

- Reasonable size cooking fire and fire pit (no bonfires)
- Do not cause a nuisance or health hazard to your neighbors. Never use wet or damp wood. This creates needless, irritating smoke. Always use dry seasoned wood, charcoal, or specialist fuel (e.g. wood burning briquettes). If the Holden Fire Department receives complaints from neighbors that the smoke or smell is bothersome, we will investigate, and if deemed necessary, you may be instructed to extinguish the fire. See MGL Chapter 148 & 527 CMR / MGL Chapter 48, Section 13.
- Must be in a container designed or engineered for fire safety and outdoor use
- No burning of trash, leaves, construction materials, stumps, hay, grass, flammable materials, household & yard waste, vegetation, petroleum products, milled lumber, weather treated, or painted materials.
- Cooking fire shall not be up against combustible materials
- Fire shall not be left unattended at any time
- Spot checks of cooking fires will be conducted as necessary
- Fire must be fully extinguished before leaving site
- A means of extinguishment must be on site
- Fuel used for cooking fires shall be natural gas & propane, charcoal, dry seasoned natural wood
- Cooking food is not permitted on or near a balcony of an apartment or multi-family residence
- Residents may construct their own outdoor fireplace/fire pit and must be constructed of masonry, concrete, stone, or heavy gage steel.
- The Fire Chiefs may prohibit residents from burning if weather conditions or other circumstances render such fires to be hazardous to life or property.

If you have any further questions related to the use of open fire pits and recreational fires, please call the Holden Fire Department to speak with one of the Fire Inspectors at 508-210-5650 during normal business hours.